

Observing our Faith - OoF†

New Year's Day 1 January

The Naming of Jesus



Joseph's Dream, Rembrandt van Rijn

*Every day is a fresh
beginning;
Listen, my soul,
to the glad refrain,
And, spite of old sorrow
and older sinning,
And puzzles forecasted
and possible pain,
Take heart with the day,
and begin again.*

From 'New every morning'
Susan Coolidge, in
A Few More Verses, 1889

About this festival

We read in Luke's Gospel (2.21) that on the eighth day Jesus was circumcised and called *Jesus*, the name that the angel had told Joseph to give him, '*for he will save his people from their sins*' (Matt. 1.21). This fulfilled Isaiah's prophesy (7.14) of the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

The name *Jeshua* means salvation or *Yahweh*, God. So, Christians have always called on the name of Jesus

for the grace of salvation. The initials *IHS* are found in much Christian art as the symbol of the Holy Name of Jesus. They stand for the first three letters of his name in Greek and are also taken to mean, *Jesus, Saviour of Humankind*.

A Word from Scripture

"I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43.19

Then everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" Acts 2.21



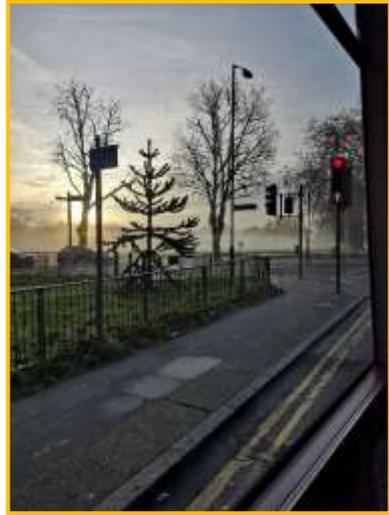
An activity to try

"The most perfect way to say *Lord* is to say it with your whole life" (Origen)

As you start putting entries into your new diary or marking important dates on your calendar, consider writing in your appointments with God!

We've heard of 'me time', but time with God in prayer is a way to grow our lives in holiness and make a new start. Make a plan – what will you do each day, each week and each month and make a definite time for it.

These might be prayer times, times for Bible reading and sometimes quiet days. And there may be special occasions that you want to highlight. You might like to decorate them with a symbol, like *IHS*. Do you have dates that have been significant in your faith journey? Tell us what you are planning and send a picture of part of your diary or calendar that you have marked up with a time you are looking forward to.



Winter dawn

Put it on our Facebook page, email it, or Whatsapp it and we'll add it to the OoF webpage.

The SEC Collect Prayer for the Festival of the Naming of Jesus

**Eternal Father,
who gave to your incarnate Son
the holy name of Jesus,
to be the sign of our salvation:
place in every heart, we pray,
the love of him who is the Lord of every year
and Saviour of the world;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**



IHS monogram, Montmorency, France: Reinhardhauke CC BY-SA 3.0

Your prayer to offer – The Jesus Prayer

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner”. There is an ancient tradition of praying these words meditatively. Start repeating them softly aloud and then just in your head, until your prayer moves into silence.

Next leaflet: Epiphany

Rector: Rev'd Reuben Preston 07971 895897
Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

The Scottish Episcopal Church at prayer
in church together and at home

Growing in faith and holiness
United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

